

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Notes from Vermont.—In January last, while looking over some ferns at the Vermont Agricultural College, I noticed some very fine large specimens which did not look like anything I had ever seen before. On closer examination they proved to be *Dryopteris* (*Aspidium*) *marginale*, but the fronds were tripinnatifid. I sent a specimen to Prof. Underwood and he tells me that he never saw a like development of this species. These specimens were collected by C. E. Stevens, at Colchester pond, near Fort Ethan Allen, which is also the only Vermont station for *Woodwardia Virginica*.

Myriophyllum scabratum grows in abundance in a little pond in Johnson, Vermont. This is 200 miles farther north than before reported.

Mt. Mansfield is well known as a locality for rare mosses but I can find no account of *Tetraplodon mnioides*, as coming from this locality. I collected this in the summer of 1893 on the skeleton of a hedgehog, in the swamp back of the Summit house. *Aster tardiflorus* was collected in Smuggler's Notch, in the summer of 1893, being another rare plant to add to the long list from this locality.—A. J. GROUT, Johnson, Vermont.

Other poisonous plants.—The note by Dr. Harshberger in the April GAZETTE leads me to state that at least two other plants, perhaps not recorded as so endowed, produce in some cases an irritation or poisonous effects, namely: the Osage-orange (*Maclura aurantiaca*) and the star-cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus*). A friend of mine informs me that in working in the maclura hedges he has suffered considerably and when the thorns pierce the skin they seem to leave a poison in the wound.

Another friend has been repeatedly poisoned in handling the star-cucumber. To me the plant is unpleasant to the touch, and particularly the burr-like fruit, but it has never left any well-defined inflammation. Ordinary field barley, however, is extremely unpleasant to the writer, and when an awn is drawn across the wrist, for example, it will leave a line of redness for hours.

Some truckers, I have learned, are affected by celery, and after working in it for a few days the hands become quite swollen. The celery belongs to a family of which many members are poisonous.

Some species of greenhouse aloes are also reported as causing inflammation when the juice is applied to the skin.—BYRON D. HALSTED, Rutger's College, New Brunswick, N. J.